



# VA North Texas Health Care System

The right choice for health care

Public Affairs



January 2007

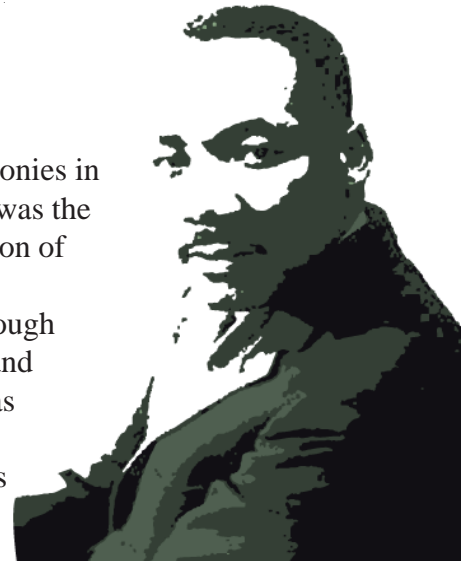
MARTIN LUTHER  
KING JR.



VA North Texas celebrated the life of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. with ceremonies in Dallas and Bonham. Remember! Celebrate! Act! A Day On, Not a Day Off! was the theme as employees and guests gathered to honor America's greatest champion of racial justice and equality.

Dr. King was a leader who dreamed of a color-blind society and taught through example the values of courage, truth, justice, compassion, dignity, humility and service. He published his first book, *Stride Toward Freedom*, in 1958 and was awarded the Nobel Prize for peace in 1964.

Although Dr. King's life was ended by the hands of an assassin in 1968, his vision forever changed history and the civil rights movement.



Programs held at VANTHCS honored the universal, unconditional love, forgiveness and nonviolence that empowered Dr. King's revolutionary spirit.

Bonham featured Barbara Manguin (pictured left) from Nutrition & Food Service as keynote speaker with Recording Artist Delores Little.

In Dallas, Pastor Terry Turner (pictured right) of Mesquite Friendship Baptist Church delivered the keynote address.



## In this issue...

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*From the Director...*

We have hit the ground running in 2007! For the first time, VANTHCS closed all open encounters during early January - one week before the deadline. Let's build on our accomplishments as we keep VANTHCS in a continuous state of readiness in performance measures and patient safety. New customer service initiatives also challenge each of us to treat our patients and their families as we would want our family to be treated should they be in the hospital.



*Betty Bolin Brown*



The NCPS was established in 1999 to develop and nurture a culture of safety throughout VHA. Our goal is the nationwide reduction and prevention of inadvertent harm to patients as a result of their care. Patient safety managers at 154 VA hospitals and patient safety officers at 21 VA regional headquarters participate in the program.



Goal 15 for 2007 states, "The organization identifies safety risks inherent in its patient population."

Four changes this year concern goals 2, 8 and 13 - the most significant of these is an addition to the existing medication reconciliation requirement. A patient must be provided with a complete list of current medications upon discharge from a facility, including providing an updated list of current medications after an office visit or outpatient procedure if a patient's medications have been modified.

We continue to recognize groups for their efforts during our OIG CAP inspection in November. Receiving no recommendations for environment of care is an awesome accomplishment, especially with over 63 acres under roof. Pictured below is the appreciation event for Engineering, EMS and Nursing employees in Bonham enjoying a pizza lunch. These employees also received vouchers for VANTHCS shirts.



Have you seen the new VANTHCS shirts? Thanks to our models in HR, Dane Hatch and Kristina Alston. Vouchers have been presented to many employees already. HR is grouping sizes, etc. and shirts will be distributed soon.



Wash Wash Wash  
Your Hands -  
Patient safety  
and the safety  
of others  
depend on it!!!



# Get the Flu Shot!

CDC recommends that all health care workers receive an annual influenza vaccination to prevent transmission to patients. Influenza immunization rates among health care workers remain low, with only 36-40% of health care workers reporting influenza vaccination each year. Influenza vaccination is an important patient safety issue because unvaccinated staff can spread influenza to patients, coworkers, and family members, leading to influenza-related illness and death.

At VANTHCS, everyone is encouraged to get the flu shot, even if you have no direct patient contact. We are required to have 61% of all employees vaccinated and are almost there with 55%. So, consider your family, coworkers, and anyone you come in contact with - Get the Flu Shot!

Dallas - Employee Health Unit

Bonham - AOD

Fort Worth - Clinic A



**North Texas**  
Health Care System



US Department of Veterans Affairs | Veterans Health Administration | VA Heart of Texas Health Care Network (VISN 17)

**VA North Texas Health Care System**  
Dallas | Bonham | Fort Worth

**Intranet**

Have you had a chance to review the new intranet home page? North, South and Central redesigned their home pages to provide a standard look and feel for VISN 17. It's a totally different look, but all the great links and helpful information are still there. Check it out! <http://vhantxiis.v17.med.va.gov/>



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Veterans can now view prescription names when ordering refills using MyHealth@Vet.

[www.myhealth.va.gov](http://www.myhealth.va.gov)



Have any news? Please submit features or story ideas to Penny Kerby in Public Affairs



## Construction Projects at Dallas VAMC

Preliminary construction has begun for a new Geropsych Unit that will meet the unique psychiatric and medical needs of seniors. Underground parking has been sectioned off to serve as a staging area for the next year, and employees are being re-routed to the east entrance.



Nancy Gray



Bruce Morris

Fisher House is a 'home away from home' that provides free or low cost lodging to veterans and military families receiving treatment at a military or VA medical facility.



Groundbreaking for the Fisher House will begin later this year at the present site of Liberty Field near the Energy Center. Dallas will be similar to the Fisher House at Houston VAMC - 2-story, 21-suites.



Fisher House, Houston VAMC

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214 742-8387

Sam Rayburn Memorial Veterans Center  
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